

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) An adjustable steering column comprising:

a steering spindle;

a shell unit housing said steering spindle;

a console unit having at least one side wall which extends in a lateral direction along said shell unit, said shell unit being supported by said at least one side wall, said console unit being fixed to a chassis; and

a securement device operable between an engaged state and a disengaged state, said securement device including

a plurality of securing elements,

a tension bolt penetrating openings in said shell unit and in said at least one side wall, wherein said shell unit, said console unit, said plurality of securing elements and said tension bolt have a structure and are arranged such that when said securement device is in said engaged state, said shell unit is unadjustably coupled with said console unit by said securing elements engaging one another, and when said securement device is in said disengaged state, said shell unit is adjustable relative to said console unit in at least one adjustment direction, and

a tilting part supported so as to be displaceable relative to a first one of said shell unit and said at least one side wall in one of said at least one adjustment direction, and so as to be nondisplaceable relative to a second one of said shell unit and said at least one side wall in said one of said at least one adjustment direction,

wherein one of (a) said tilting part and (b) said first one of said shell unit and said at least one side wall includes clamping edges, and the other of (a) said tilting part and (b) said first one of said shell unit and said at least one side wall includes clamping faces,

and wherein said shell unit, said console unit and said tilting part have a structure and are arranged such that ~~when deformation of~~ said steering column ~~is deformed~~ in said one of said at least one adjustment direction[[,]] results in said tilting part ~~[[is]]~~ being torqued by said second one of said shell unit and said at least one side wall relative to said first one of said shell unit and

said at least one side wall such that said clamping edges dig into said clamping faces so as to inhibit a displacement of said tilting part in said one of said at least one adjustment direction.

30. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said tilting part and said second one of said shell unit and said at least one side wall are connected via at least one engagement element and at least two engagement points spaced apart from one another.

31. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said tilting part includes said clamping edges, and said first one of said shell unit and said at least one side wall includes said clamping faces.

32. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said one of said at least one adjustment direction is a height direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said steering column.

33. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said at least one adjustment direction in which said shell unit is adjustable relative to said console unit includes an axial direction of said steering column and a height direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said steering column.

34. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 33, wherein said tilting part is supported so as to be nondisplaceable relative to said second one of said shell unit and said at least one side wall in one of said axial direction and said height direction, and so as to be displaceable relative to said second one of said shell unit and said at least one side wall in the other of said axial direction and said height direction.

35. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said tilting part is supported so as to be nondisplaceable relative to said shell unit in a height direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said steering column, and so as to be displaceable relative to said at least one side wall in said height direction.

36. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said tilting part has a central opening which is penetrated by said tension bolt.

37. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said tilting part further comprises:

transmission ledges overlapping edges of said shell unit in an axial direction of said steering column; and

tilting ledges overlapping edges of one of said at least one side wall in a height direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said steering column, wherein at least one of said tilting ledges at least partially engages a groove in said one of said at least one side wall in said height direction.

38. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said tilting part is positioned between one of said at least one side wall and said shell unit.

39. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 38, wherein said tilting part further comprises:

transmission ledges overlapping edges of said shell unit in an axial direction of said steering column.

40. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 38, wherein said tilting part is guided in a depression on a surface of said one of said at least one side wall facing said shell unit, wherein flanks defining said depression and extending in a height direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said steering column comprise said clamping

faces.

41. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said tilting part is positioned at a surface of one of said at least one side wall facing away from said shell unit.

42. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 41, wherein said tilting part further comprises:

a transmission part nondisplaceably connected in said one of said at least one adjustment direction to a surface of said tilting part facing away from said shell unit, said transmission part being connected to said shell unit so as to be nondisplaceable at least in said one of said at least one adjustment direction.

43. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 42, wherein said transmission part is connected to said shell unit so as to be nondisplaceable in an axial direction of said steering column, and in a height direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said steering column.

44. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 42, wherein said at least one adjustment direction includes an axial direction of said steering column and a height direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said steering column, said transmission part is nondisplaceably connected to said surface of said tilting part in one of said axial direction and said height direction, and wherein said tilting part includes transmission ledges extending in the other of said axial direction and said height direction.

45. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 42, wherein said tilting part further comprises:

first arms extending in said one of said at least one adjustment direction; and
second arms extending in another of said at least one adjustment direction.

46. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 45, wherein said tilting part is supported in a depression on a surface of said one of said at least one side wall facing away from said shell unit so as to be displaceable in said one of said at least one adjustment direction, wherein flanks defining said depression comprise said clamping faces, and wherein said first arms extending in said one of said at least one adjustment direction comprises said clamping edges.

47. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 46, wherein at least one of said first and second arms comprises extensions separated by a cutout portion, said extensions being bendable towards each other so as to form said clamping edges upon deformation of said steering column.

48. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 47, wherein said extensions include toothed sections in a region to be bent so as to form said clamping edges.

49. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 45, wherein said second arms are displaceably supported in a depression extending in said another of said at least one adjustment direction in said transmission part, wherein side flanks of said depression comprise engagement elements for a nondisplaceable connection of said tilting part with said transmission part in said one of said at least one adjustment direction.

50. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 41, wherein said tilting part further comprises:

engagement elements positioned at two opposite sides of said one of said at least one side wall in an axial direction of said steering column, said engagement elements extending from said tilting part toward said shell unit, wherein said engagement elements overlap at least an edge of

said shell unit extending in said axial direction, and/or engage at least one guidance slot in said shell unit extending in said axial direction.

51. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 50, wherein said tilting part further comprises:

tilting ledges overlapping said sides of said one of said at least one side wall, said engagement elements being positioned on said tilting ledges, wherein said tilting ledges comprise said clamping edges, and wherein said sides of said one of said at least one side wall comprise said clamping faces.

52. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said console unit comprises two side walls, said shell unit being positioned between said two side walls.

53. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 52, wherein said tension bolt penetrates openings in both of said side walls.

54. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 52, wherein said tilting part comprises at least one tilting part provided at each of said side walls.

55. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, wherein said securing elements comprise:

a first plurality of plates connected with said shell unit; and
a second plurality of plates connected with said console unit, said plates of said first and second plurality of plates having friction faces and being interdigitated with each other.

56. (Previously Presented) An adjustable steering column according to claim 29, further comprising:

a tensioning device for mutually engaging said securing elements, said tensioning device being actuatable by a tension lever.